

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

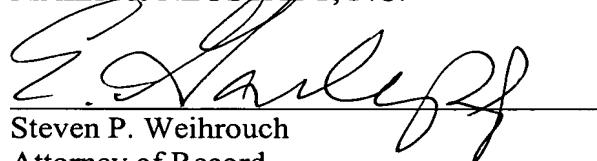
Claims 1-40 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 18 and 21 amended and Claims 36-40 added by way of the present Amendment.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to clarify the originally filed claims and to vary the scope of the claims in this case. Amended Claims 1 and 13, and new Claims 35-36 and 38-39 are supported at least by Figures 6-8 and the corresponding text of the application as originally filed. Claims 37 and 40 are supported by paragraph [0039] of the specification as originally filed. Therefore the amended and new claims do not raise an issue of new matter.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for full and formal examination on the merits. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 32,829

Edwin D. Garlepp  
Registration No. 45,330

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

SPW:EDG\la  
I:\ATTY\EDG\277768US-PR.DOC